

Application No. 09/973,225  
Amendment dated 5/7/04  
Reply to Office Action of 12/10/2003

REMARKS

By Office Action mailed December 10, 2003, pending claims 5 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 and are accordingly amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections. Specifically, independent Claim 5 is amended to more accurately and unambiguously describe the support of one rim and the axial force applied to the other rim as the Examiner suggests is shown in the specification.

The Examiner further rejected claim 2 as anticipated by US patent 859733 to Bot and Claim 2 is withdrawn. The Examiner states that Claims 5 and 11 and 4 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if properly amended. Either Claim 4 or Claim 2 from which it depends could have been amended to recite the allowable subject matter; however, it appears to the applicant that such amendment would be unnecessarily confusing. Therefore, New Claim 12 is submitted containing the elements and allowable subject matter previously recited in Claims 2 and 4.

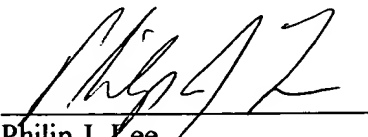
Since the remaining claims believed to be allowable, each of the presently pending claims in this application, are believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of the claims and that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectively submitted,

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